

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1 to 11 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

II. Provisional Double-Patenting Rejection

As regards the provisional double-patenting rejection, while Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of this provisional rejection, to facilitate matters, a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent Application No. 10/714,377 is submitted herewith, thereby obviating the present provisional rejection.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this provisional rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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